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FREE

# Potrero Pot Club Plan Sparks Controversy

## —Moratorium May Snuff It Out

By John Borg

The first new retailer to move into a prime redevelopment corner on Third Street — just across from the old Potrero Police Station and steps from a shining new Light Rail stop — might just be a medical marijuana club with its own walk-in bank vault and plenty of on-site parking.

Or maybe not. On March 29, the Board of Supervisors passed a 45-day moratorium on new marijuana clubs in San Francisco while the city establishes new regulations to govern them. While many San Franciscans have liberal attitudes about pot, the fast-growing medicinal marijuana industry has raised eyebrows — and some neighbors hope that plans for the Dogpatch cannabis club will now go up in smoke.

Marijuana use is against federal law, but California voters legalized it for medicinal purposes by passing Proposition 215 in 1996. Prior to the board's action, the outlet on Third Street would have been an allowable use that could have been established relatively easily, even if some people opposed it.

The local controversy was sparked several weeks before the moratorium, when one of the new owners of the former Crocker Bank Building at the corner of Third and 20th streets told a select group of neighbors that he and his partner had

leased the site to a medicinal marijuana club, which would open in the near future.

According to neighbors, Stephen Ampaneros told them that he and majority owner, Mary Tom, ultimately planned to demolish the approximately 4,000-square-foot structure and its adjacent parking lot to develop a housing complex with ground-floor retail. However, he said, the new development could take three years or more to get off the ground, and the medical marijuana outlet would occupy the space in the meantime.

Pro Camera Rental and Supply had occupied the building for the last 20 years, but it moved out in late 2004 after the owners proposed a big rent hike. The structure was originally built in 1917, and remodeled to its current form in 1940. The bank was an important building in the area's period of significance, being the only such institution within walking distance for thousands of workers at the San Francisco shipyard and other nearby waterfront enterprises.

After a series of e-mails about the proposed Dogpatch cannabis club circulated among neighbors, The View contacted Ampaneros to verify the story. He acknowledged talking to neighbors, but would not speak on record and referred all questions to his press representative, who would neither confirm nor deny the plan.

Mayor Gavin Newsom stepped in and



While many San Franciscans have liberal attitudes about pot, reported plans for a medicinal marijuana outlet at this building on the corner of Third and 20th Street have raised concern among some neighbors. As The View was going to press, city officials passed a temporary moratorium on new dispensaries until new laws are passed to regulate them.

*John Borg photo*

called for a temporary halt to new cannabis clubs at a March 21 news conference, after hearing a growing number of complaints from neighborhoods throughout the city. Newsom reiterated his support for the appropriate use of medical marijuana, but said that there needs to be "common sense and grounding as it relates to the proliferation of these clubs in San Francisco."

District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, a supporter of Prop. 215 and decriminalizing marijuana, led the moratorium effort. He has been crafting legislation for new regulations covering everything from

taxing and planning issues to police and health concerns.

Advocates say that many patients who suffer from illness, disability, and chronic pain find that traditional medications do not provide relief as effectively as medicinal cannabis. While sympathetic to the needs of such patients, some neighbors have complained that cannabis club regulations in San Francisco have been, well, just a little too laid back.

The city offers a marijuana ID card for individuals who can provide a doctor's

*(Continued on Page 15)*

# Bay View Boat Club Raises Funds for Tsunami-torn Fishing Villages

By Doug McKechnie

What do several hundred Bay View Boat Club members in San Francisco have in common with four fishing villages in the Indian Ocean? The answer is Seacology, the world's premier nonprofit, non-governmental organization whose sole and unique purpose is preserving the environments and cultures of islands throughout the globe.

The Bay View Boat Club is one of the many clubs around the Bay whose membership is devoted to sailing and boating. Established in 1961, the club is located just south of the Ball Park in Mission Bay and has an active and diverse membership.

Soon after the tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, the Bay View Boat Club voted to have a

fundraiser for the victims. As people who spend a lot of time on the water, the club wanted to do something to help.

Seacology was discovered by Bay View Boat Club members Lois Baleskie and her husband Barty Roth who saw a profile on the organization in December on KPIX TV and alerted boat club board member Jerry Minister, whose task it was to find a worthy organization to which to contribute. After a careful look at Seacology's Tsunami Relief agenda, Minister was encouraged to learn that 100 percent of all donations would go directly to specific islands in the area.

The club held the fundraiser in late January. With a silent auction, the club presented items for bid of a kind unique to its membership: eight hours of handyman work; three hours of plumbing services; four hours of electrical work with

a crew of three; 10 hours of computer/web design; a four-hour cruise on the Bay; a fishing trip for four including breakfast, lunch and fishing licenses; auto repair; yoga sessions; massages and much more. The response from the members and their guests was outstanding. At the end of the day the club had raised over \$7500.

What really inspired everyone, and was the driving spirit of the event, was the knowledge that the entire sum that was to be raised would be used to purchase more

than 22 boats and fishing gear for four specific villages: Kendhoo, in the Maldives; Kiralakele in Sri Lanka; Kadakatchang in Andaman; and Koh Muk in Thailand's Trang province.

These villages and their way of life had been decimated by the tsunami. The response of the membership to the idea of providing real tools to rebuild village culture was heartfelt and visceral. In short order,

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In Our View

# Potrero Hill Schools In Big Trouble

In a March 18 open letter sent to "All members of the Enola Maxwell Community" Superintendent of School Arlene Ackerman stated that "the Board of Education and the [San Francisco Unified School] District are facing the prospect of significant budget cuts due to increasing costs and inadequate revenue from the State of California. The Board is in the process of exploring all options for closing our budget gap. Though the Board will need to make choices, possibly including the consolidation of schools and child development centers, no decisions have been made yet."

Then on March 24, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that the "Board of Education is expected to close three to five schools at the end of this school year to help eliminate a \$10 million deficit for 2005-06." Among the schools targeted for possible closure are two on Potrero Hill — Enola D. Maxwell Middle School and Starr King Elementary School.

We are dismayed and appalled by this news.

When the Middle School opened in 1971, Hill parents were glad that their sixth to eighth grade children would be able to attend school right in their own neighborhood. (There were two elementary schools in the area at the time.) Under the leadership of Tom Sammon, who served as principal for ten years, a dedicated staff of teachers made the new school a success.

Unfortunately, in recent years the history of the school — renamed in 2001 for community leader Enola D. Maxwell — has been somewhat disappointing. There have been amazing turnovers (25 principals in 34 years!), lowered grade scores, and many promised programs have failed to materialize.

But still we are hopeful — a good sign is that grade scores have improved in the past year.

Another of the Board's methods to keep schools open has been consolidating. The Middle School has already vacated one whole floor for use by a chartered elementary school!

We're not sure that consolidating actually saves the District money. What difference does that make in this case, when the District claims "increasing costs and inadequate revenue from the State"?

On the other hand, while watching television the evening of March 30, a TV ad promoting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger stated his absolute desire to educate California's children by "investing more money into the schools to upgrade them." He also stated that he would increase the education budget by three billion dollars, while claiming he would stop "special interests from running Sacramento." Little did we know that nurses and teachers are the governor's idea of special interest groups these days.

The View has learned that there will be a special meeting of the school board on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Unified School District auditorium at 555 Franklin St. We urge every interested person — with or without children in the school system — to attend. The children and families of this district deserve better attention and care than they're getting and we should all pay more attention to those in charge!



## We Get Letters

### The Truth About Junk Metal

Editor:

Supervisor Maxwell should be applauded for taking the lead to ensure that the city's junk metal dealers comply with regulations and to strengthen the record-keeping of scrap metal transactions. Unfortunately, her February column in the Potrero View unfairly portrayed how Bay Area Metals operates.

Bay Area Metals is a family-owned small business that has been in San Francisco for over 50 years. Our diverse, blue-collar workforce employs 12 people and includes two workers who were homeless before they joined the Bay Area Metals team and two others hired through Project 90, an organization helping unemployed people re-enter the workforce.

We recycle 14 million pounds of scrap metal a year, helping San Francisco meet its 2010 goal of cutting down landfill waste by 75 percent. That's 39,000 pounds of metal a day that gets recycled into new metal. BAM recycled the scrap metal at the de Young Museum, one of San Francisco's largest single source contributors of waste in 2002.

The S.F. Environment web-site recognizes the contributions of large scale recycling in its 2002 report: "Recycling improved in many areas, with aggressive recycling and reuse of materials at construction and demolition sites accounting for the majority of the increase."

The amount of waste recycled in 2002 as compared to 2001 surged from 52 percent to 63 percent.

Making metal from raw materials takes more energy to produce than from recycled materials. We are doing our part to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that cause global warming, save natural resources and keep San Francisco green.

It's true, Bay Area Metals did purchase a bike rack that turned out to be stolen from Islais Creek. We didn't know it was stolen and are not, to quote Supervisor Maxwell, a "renegade" operation in the business of buying stolen material.

Julia Viera of Friends of Islais Creek called us to be on the lookout for the bike rack. We searched our bins, found the bike rack and informed Julia that we had found it. What's more, we used our hi-tech Buy Back Pro software to identify the transaction and the seller. We were quickly able to give this information to the police.

Since this incident, we've worked with the police and installed a sophisticated digital video recording system to link our customers' images to all our transactions. Our customers know their sales are being recorded. Bay Area Metals' current record-keeping system far surpasses the regulations that Supervisor Maxwell has proposed.

We welcome letters from our readers. Please send them to us at The Potrero View, 953 De Haro St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or e-mail them to [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net).

Letters must be signed and include a street address as well as a phone number.

Letters to the Editor are subject to editing for length and clarity.

At the March 21 hearing of her legislation, we were pleased to hear Supervisor Maxwell state that her bill was not intended to drive scrap metal dealers out of business and that Bay Area Metals had taken significant steps to be a good neighbor to the community.

Taking the "junk" out of metal is not a pretty process, but the result is beautiful and impressive. We are proud of the vital role we play for San Francisco. Please come and visit our site on Third Street. Remember to bring the junk metal you have cluttering up your house. We'll even pay you for it.

Doug Golub, owner  
Bay Area Metals  
3201 Third Street

### Concerned About Project at Esprit Site

Editor:

As a homeowner in Dogpatch, I recently received a notice from the S.F. Planning Department about a proposed project on the old Esprit property between Indiana and Minnesota Streets. I think the community should have more information about this project and wondered if one of your reporters would like to look into it. Your recent article about Chris VerPlanck by John Borg was very interesting and I think they both would like to know about it as well. I wrote to Sophie Maxwell's office and got a short reply but not many details.

I am very concerned about this.

Ruth Erznosnik  
Minnesota Street

### Protecting Students' Private Information

Editor:

Under the No Child Left Behind legislation, the U.S. military is entitled to students' private information without parental, or student, permission. This information is freely given to military recruiters who are contacting our kids directly.

However, there is an opt-out provision in the legislation, providing for a simple "OPT OUT" letter to protect a students' privacy.

Please publish this little known fact to inform students and parents of their right to send an OPT OUT letter to their school administrators to protect their information privacy! A sample form can be found at [www.militaryfreezone.org/opt\\_out](http://www.militaryfreezone.org/opt_out).

Diane Bauer, concerned parent  
Redwood City

## Department of Corrections

The February 2005 article "Nail Salons May Contain Hidden Health Risks" incorrectly stated that there are 34,000 licensed nail technicians in California, when that number should have described the approximate number of establishments offering nail services in the state. Research from Nails Magazine, an industry resource, identified 79,664 licensed technicians in California in 2003. A recent San Jose Mercury piece identified 82,870 California nail technicians in 2004.



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## GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each *even-numbered* month at 7 p.m., at 50 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: April 12.

PHAMB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th Streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz). Next meeting: April 12.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: April 1 and May 6.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or call President Tony Kelly at 341-8040 or e-mail him at [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: April 26.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: April 30.

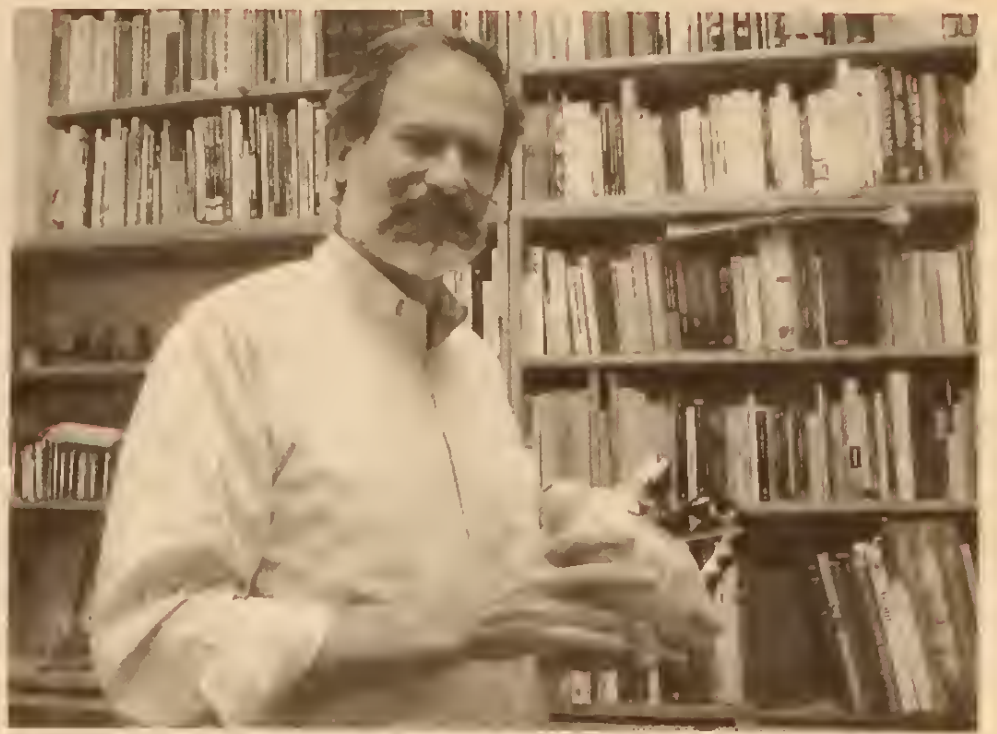
ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the S.F. Police Dept. to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: April 7 and May 5.

SFGH Rebuild Updates, neighborhood meetings hosted by S.F. General Hospital every second Wednesday, 6-8 p.m., 2789 25th Street, Rooms 2001-2003. San Francisco must rebuild its only safety net hospital and trauma center in order to meet higher seismic safety mandates. Call 206-5784 for more info. Next meeting: April 6.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each *odd-numbered* month at 7 p.m., Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Next meeting: May 17. Volunteer for the Park work days continue *every* month on the third Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Next work day: April 16 at the park, Carolina Street, south of 23rd. Mail: Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0293. Call 810-4900 for more information.



THE IDES OF APRIL



Larry Gonick will be reading from and signing copies of his new book *Kokopelli & Company in The Attack of the Smart Pies* at Farley's on Friday, April 29.

## Publication Party for Larry Gonick's New Book at Farley's

Christopher's Books and Farley's celebrate the recent publication of long-time Hill resident Larry Gonick's new young adult novel *Kokopelli & Company in The Attack of the Smart Pies*, at a reception at Farley's, 1315 18th Street, on Friday, April 29, 7 to 9 p.m.

Since 1996, Gonick has been writing and drawing a feature called *Kokopelli & Company for Muse*, a magazine aimed at 10-15 year olds. In the strip, new and updated Muses of the Modern World try to dodge the trickster's practical jokes. "I've had more reader feedback about Kokopelli than any project I've ever done," says Gonick. "Those kids think the Muses are REAL."

And now the Muses get their vety first book.

The plot is pretty twisty from the beginning: Emma Drinkwater, hoping to escape her furious, doughy foster father, sneaks into Kokonino County, the human-free home of the New Muses. She quickly finds herself embroiled in the Great Pie War launched by Kokopelli,

flute-playing Muse of Tunes and Tricks, against Urania, the high-minded muse of Astronomy.

The stakes are high: Mr. Drinkwater is holding Emma's teacher hostage in the cellar while he attempts to decode a secret message involving Emma's real parents. Can the Muses help, or are they too distracted by flying pies to help bring Emma's problems, and the Great Pie War, to a messy conclusion?

Gonick will be reading from *The Attack of the Smart Pies* and signing books at Farley's on April 29, and books will be available for purchase that evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

Gonick is known nationally for his "Cartoon History of the Universe" series, and his many cartoon guides to science, but local Potrero Hill residents also know him for his editorial cartoons frequently found in the pages of The Potrero View.

*The Attack of the Smart Pies* is available at Christopher's Books, 1400 18th Street. For more information call Christopher's at 415-255-8802.

## CityBuild: A Public Works Jobs Program for S.F.

By Sophie Maxwell  
Supervisor, District 10

Widespread unemployment. Sub-standard living conditions. High levels of poverty, hopelessness.

These descriptions reflect the reality for many of the communities within our city and within our southeastern neighborhoods. While economists and the media focus on economic indicators such as unemployment for the city as a whole, we know that there is great disparity between — and often within — neighborhoods. These "pockets of poverty" remain with us, in good economic times and bad, from one decade to the next.

We often look to new, innovative strategies to address a challenge such as this. There are times, however, when we should look to the past.

Faced with a countrywide economic collapse during the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1933 as a means to provide employment and to contribute to the revival of American industry. A centerpiece of

Roosevelt's "New Deal," the PWA spent over \$6 billion dollars on the construction of more than 34,000 public works projects, including airports, dams, schools, and hospitals.

With an eye to retrofitting our aging infrastructure, we in San Francisco have established our own version of the Public Works Administration. We as voters have approved over \$6 billion dollars worth of public works projects to be built over the next twenty years — to rebuild Laguna Honda Hospital, to construct transportation projects such as the Third Street Light Rail, and to upgrade our regional and local water system.

Yet to fully realize the promise of these projects — both in terms of their value as work products and as work opportunities — we must broaden our mandate to include an intensive employment program for our residents most in need.

With this mandate in mind, I have partnered with Mayor Gavin Newsom and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority to launch a new initiative, CityBuild. CityBuild, to be housed in the



Supervisor Sophie Maxwell

Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, is designed to utilize city-sponsored construction as a vehicle to deliver training and employment opportunities to San Francisco residents.

We are looking to Oakland's Cypress

Mandela Training Center as a model for how to train and place our residents through CityBuild. This model involves a close working relationship with our brothers and sisters in the building trades, and defines a clear role for our non-profit partners to provide soft skills training and case management services.

CityBuild will centralize our training and employment efforts into one office, led by experts in the field. It will allow the city to make strategic and coordinated investment decisions, and to employ community residents across public works projects, thereby creating careers.

CityBuild is set to launch mid-April with a few of the city's most immediate public works projects. We will continue to work with the Mayor's Office, community based organizations, and labor leaders to ensure that the program is implemented in the best possible manner. Our residents depend on it.

For more information on the CityBuild program, please contact Greg Asay in my office at 554-7672 or [greg.asay@sfgov.org](mailto:greg.asay@sfgov.org).

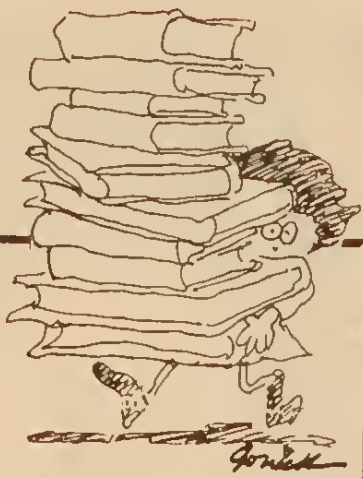


## LIBRARY NEWS

### POTRERO BRANCH

1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday  
 Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm  
 Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm  
 Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
 Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
 Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



### COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE 50th ANNUAL ART SHOW.

The 50th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition opens at the Potrero Branch Library on Saturday, April 2, continuing through Saturday, April 30, and can be viewed anytime during the library's open hours. This non-juried exhibition features work done by artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill and is the city's longest-running art show.

The Potrero Library's first art show opened in 1955, thanks to the efforts of artist Charles Griffin Farr, who wanted to demonstrate how important this branch library was to the neighborhood. This year's exhibition will be a celebration of work done by local artists and the legacy left behind by the late Mr. Farr.

### ... AND TO OUR OPENING DAY CELEBRATION

Since this year marks the 50th annual show, we will have an Opening Day Celebration on Saturday, April 2 from 1-5 p.m. Please come! The street in front of the library will be closed to traffic, and the following activities will take place outdoors:

1-5 p.m.: Hands-on art & crafts activities by San Francisco Center for the Book and SCRAP (creative re-use art center)

2-4 p.m.: Live musical entertainment by the Apollo Jazz Group

2 p.m.: Big Show Magic, featuring magicians Al Fodor and Steve Bosque

2:30 p.m.: 50th Anniversary Cake

4:15 p.m.: Dono the Clown

In case of rain, all activities will be held inside the Library.

Remember: The Potrero Library will be closed to the public on Friday, April 1, so that the planning committee, library staff, and volunteers can hang the art and prepare the facility for the exhibition. Thank you in advance for your patience as we prepare for this annual neighborhood event.

### COMING ATTRACTION: AUTHOR NIGHTS AT THE LIBRARY

Starting in May, Potrero Library will host a monthly program for adults and teens featuring published authors.

Join us on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. to meet and hear author and teacher Phyllis Helene Mattson read from *War Orphans in San Francisco*, an autobiographical coming-of-age story told through her poignant memoir.

Mark your calendar and come on Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. Acclaimed writer, videographer, and community organizer Cbris Carlsson will read his latest essay, "Jobs Don't Work!" and also from his first novel, *After the Deluge*.

Stay tuned for dates of more Author Nights at the Library. For further information, please contact librarian Lia Hillman at 355-2856.

### APRIL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Thursday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages, join us in welcoming singer Bonnie Lockhart as she presents songs and music games from around the world. This program is funded by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

And here's the April line-up of our ongoing programs:

Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, April 7, 21, and 28 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.

Evening storytime on Tuesdays, April 5, 19, and 26 at 7 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

Evening films on Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.: *The Mysterious Tadpole*, *The Most Wonderful Egg in the World*, *The Three Robbers*, and *Myra*. For ages 3 and older.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All Library programs are free. Meeting room is not accessible by elevator. Groups, please call in advance for reservations.

Jensa Woo  
 Potrero Branch Library Manager

# TEN YEARS AGO

## In The View

### VOTE STALLED ON PUBLIC HOUSING

The San Francisco Housing Commission voted on March 23 to delay action on a controversial measure that aims to rehabilitate or replace the worn buildings of the Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex public housing units on the Hill. The 4-2 vote tabled a measure to retain architects the Commission needed to apply for the \$50 million "HOPE VI" grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant application deadline is April 17, because of concerns about the relocation of the residents during reconstruction.

### HUGE HOME DEPOT PROPOSED FOR MISSION BAY

A proposal to build a massive Home Depot/Expo Design Center on the Mariposa Street side of the Mission Bay development caused increasing concern among residents and business people on the Hill. Anne Domanski complained that the structure would be like a fence keeping people from walking into the Mission Bay project. Owners of Center Hardware and Fregosi Paint doubted that the Mariposa Street off-ramp from I-280 could handle the thousands of cars the Home Depot would be expected to attract. Virtually nothing has happened since the development agreement was signed by the city and Catellus Corp. Plans for a sports complex and for UCSF research facilities have not begun construction. Catellus threatened that if the Home Depot proposal was not approved, they would leave the project. Catellus also asked the city to exempt them from providing money for off-site affordable housing and an economic development fund, as well as investigation and remediation of possible toxic hazards before the beginning of construction.

### HILL HEALTH CENTER INVITES VISITS

Public Health Week, April 3-9, celebrates the mission of the public health system, which, in addition to the clinics, is concerned with sanitary conditions and epidemic control, mental health centers, outreach clinics, the S.F. General Hospital, Laguna Honda Hospital and special project sites throughout the City. As part of the celebration, the public is invited to visit the Potrero Hill Health Center on Wednesday and Thursday, April 5 and 6.

### CRIME ON POTRERO HILL

Potrero Hill is divided roughly by 23rd Street. The north slope, with its Victorian and Edwardian houses, is ethnically mixed but predominantly white and financially comfortable, while the south slope, with its public housing, is predominantly black. North-slope whites averaged more than twice the per capita income of the black population, which many people consider to be the underlying cause of the crime problem on the Hill, mostly auto boosting and car theft and street robberies. Potrero District Police Captain Tim Hettrick reports a significant decline in crime statistics on the Hill in comparison with the previous year.

**AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . .** Assemblyman Art Agnos sought a delay in the 24-unit project proposed for 23rd and Wisconsin, that would include two commercial sites on the ground floor that neighbors feared would become hangouts for undesirables . . . St. Teresa's church announced that it would be affording sanctuary to a woman refugee from El Salvador . . . Plans were announced for a 132-unit complex of townhouses and condominiums at 23rd and Kansas, formerly a paint factory and the site of Synanon . . . View's April Fool issue fooled lots of people, with its stories of the imminent auction sale of the Southern Pacific Tunnel under Potrero Hill, the offer by PG&E to convert its gas storage tank at Army and Pennsylvania into a domed stadium, a demand by Lombard Street neighborhood association that the Board of Supervisors straighten out the Hill's serpentine Vermont Street because of its unfair competitive advantage . . . The Nabe was preparing to open its child care center at 824 Carolina Street . . . The Library was getting ready for the 30th annual art show . . . The Mayor's Office of Housing and Economic Development was establishing a Potrero Hill office to help residents in applying for 3 percent home rehab loans . . . The Farm announced an Easter vacation day camp for kids 6-10 . . . The S.F. International Film Festival planned a Latin-American series to be shown at the York Theater on 24th Street...View staffer Sally Taylor's bicycling book, *Grape Expeditions in France*, was published . . . Charles Sabella was elected president of the Potrero Hill Senior Escort Council.

— Bernie Gershtater



### The View at the Library

If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.

## S. F. Electric Reliability Project Update

On March 25 the City and County of San Francisco filed a supplement to the Application for Certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to reflect a siting change. The site now proposed for the city's combustion turbine (CT) project is four acres of city-owned property located at 25th and Maryland streets, north of Cesar Chavez. The AFC licensing process is expected to take about nine months.

In early May, the CEC is planning to hold an information hearing and site visit to provide the public and interested agencies with information about the new site.

CEC commissioners will be there to listen to public comments and gather information.

The AFC process is similar to an environmental review under California's Environmental Quality Act. It will identify the CT project's potential environmental impacts and spell out the conditions under which the CT project would be permitted. The final license will include mitigation measures for construction and operational impacts.

The supplement to the AFC is required because the city had originally intended to site the facility on the Mirant Potrero Power Plant property. The new site is farther away from residential neighborhoods and is already under city control.

The CEC has not yet finalized the date, time and location for the informational hearing and site visit. Look for an announcement in next month's Potrero View.

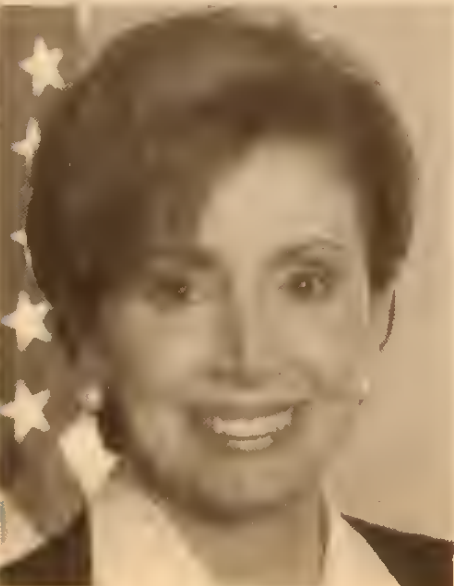


# Privatization Plan for Social Security is Unnecessary, Unaffordable, and Unwise

By Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader

Recently, more than 300 San Franciscans came to a town hall meeting at the San Francisco Main Library to discuss President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security.

Dr. Carroll Estes from the UCSF Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Jane Corbett from the USF School of Nursing; Megan O'Neil from the World Institute on Disability; and Noelle Abastillas of the Greenlining Institute joined me to share their stories, their experience, and their expertise.



Representative Nancy Pelosi

The town hall meeting was one of more than 300 that House Democrats are holding across the country on Social Security.

Social Security is the most visionary example of what President Franklin Roosevelt called "bold, persistent experimentation." Its goal was to ensure that the prospect of retirement was not met with the specter of poverty, and it has been an incredible success.

Social Security does face problems down the road, and we need to solve them. But we have the time to do it right. The president talks about a crisis, but according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, Social Security will be solvent for nearly 50 years.

Democrats believe any consideration of changes to Social Security must adhere to three key principles.

First, Democrats insist that changes to Social Security not add to the deficit. Any plan for Social Security needs to begin by paying back the money that has been borrowed from the trust fund, just as President Clinton did in the late 1990s.

To establish private accounts requires borrowing trillions of dollars in coming decades. Even with that enormous cost, privatizing Social Security does absolutely nothing to address the fiscal challenge facing Social Security down the road. In fact, privatization drains trillions of dollars from the Social Security Trust Fund.

Second, Democrats insist any change in Social Security not slash benefits. The average Social Security check today is \$950 a month. That is not a great deal of money for those who depend on that check to pay for food, rent, heat, and medicine. Under the leading privatization plan proposed by the president's Social Security commission, the Social Security

(Continued on Page 12)



BVBC members deliver the funds to Seacology's development director, Susan Racanelli. Left to right Rob Hough, Annette Fajardo, Susan Racanelli, and Jerry Minister.

Doug McKechnie photo

## Boat Club Raises Funds for Tsunami-torn Islands

(Continued from Page 1)

their contributions would materialize into boats and equipment enabling those villages to begin rebuilding their lives.

"The 22 boats and gear will be an immediate relief to these villages" said Seacology development director, Susan Racanelli.

"The Bay View Boat Club was delighted to learn of Seacology and be able to help fellow boaters and fishermen regain their livelihood," said club secretary, Annette Fajardo, who organized the benefit event. "At \$240 for a fiberglass boat and \$95 for the gear, there is certainly room for others to continue to

help these people and we are still accepting donations, she said." If you are so inclined, you can make your donations to Seacology, care of the Bay View Boat Club, 489 Terry Francois Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94107.

In the meantime, the members of the Bay View Boat Club are excited about keeping in touch with their new boat mates in the Far East. Club burgees, the small flags with the club's logo, will accompany each boat, a reminder of the friendship and humanity that is a hallmark of all people who go to the sea in boats.

Doug McKechnie is a longtime member of the Bay View Boat Club.



### What's Up at The Nabe?

Join our Tai Chi class Mondays at 10-11 a.m.  
The gentle movements of Tai Chi convey the essence of peace and relaxation to the modern world.

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953 De Haro Street / San Francisco, CA 94107  
415 / 826-8080

Edward Hatter, Executive Director

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving those most in need, with an emphasis on youth and education.  
The Nabe is wheelchair accessible.  
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### Help Feed the Hungry

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The Potrero Branch of the San Francisco Public Library presents

50th Annual

Potrero Hill Artists  
Exhibition

Drawing by R. F. Amato

April 2 – April 30, 2005

Potrero Branch Library

Opening day celebration

Saturday, April 2

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Outdoor schedule of events for Saturday, April 2:

1:00 – 5:00 . . . Hands-on arts and crafts activities by San Francisco Center for the Book and SCRAP (creative re-use art center)

2:00 – 4:00 Live musical entertainment by the Apollo Jazz Group

2:00 Magician Max's Magic Stop

2:30 50th Anniversary cake

4:15 Dono the Clown

There will be face painting for children at various times throughout the afternoon. In case of rain, all activities will be held inside the Library. The programming room is **not** accessible by elevator.

All programs at the Library are free.

Funded by the generous donations of Potrero Hill merchants, associations and individuals and Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.



San Francisco Public Library

1616 20th Street (near Connecticut) 415.355.2822 www.sfppl.org

Hours: Tue 10-8, Wed 12-8, Thur 10-6, Fri 1-6, Sat 1-6, Sun Mon closed



## A Perspective on Baseball

By Risa Nye

For the last two years, I have donned orange and black and headed for SBC Park to see the San Francisco Giants on Opening Day. Thousands of others skipped work and school to sit in the sunshine and root for the home team. Before the mayor tossed out the first pitch, all eyes were on the field as the Coast Guard unfurled an enormous representation of the flag in straightaway center. Men and women in uniform lined up along the fences. Four U.S. Navy jets buzzed low over the stadium.

With the nation still at war, the pre-game fireworks display and the jets reminded me of what I came to the ballpark to forget for a little while. We have all seen the rocket's red glare, along with bombs bursting in air, for much too long. But how could I allow myself to forget, even for a few hours, that soldiers were fighting and dying far away? Young men in different uniforms, not the ones we came to watch on a sunny April afternoon.

Ask anyone: Baseball is still the national pastime. So going to the ballgame is a patriotic thing to do. After 9/11, "God Bless America" nudged "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" from its traditional spot during the 7th inning stretch. Even

though many fans are disgusted with the drug use, the trash talk and the \$7.75 beers, baseball and its patriotic pull lures us back. No matter where you stand politically, it's hard to avoid the place where baseball and being an American come together.

It seems that real life no longer stops outside the turnstile. We use the occasion of a public gathering to pay tribute to those who have lost or given their lives. We cannot escape the symbolism of the color guard, standing at attention in center field, as we rise for our national anthem. Perhaps baseball is giving us an opportunity we might not otherwise take: the chance to stand up, with hats off and hands on our hearts, to proclaim a deep, but troubled love for our country. In luxury boxes and bleachers alike, with tears in our eyes and a catch in our throats, regardless of how we feel about the war and all the rest, we take a moment out of our lives and reflect on what it means today to live in "the land of the free and home of the brave."

I'll miss the opener this year, but I'll be rooting for our guys and hope they'll soon be safe at home.

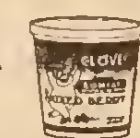
Play ball.

Giants fan Risa Nye lives in Oakland.

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**Artist of the Month and Window Display:** Local painter, Marni Sheppard, will exhibit her expressionist nature paintings. Reception for the artist, Saturday, April 2, 4-6 p.m.

**Potrero Friends of Old Time Music** plays country/mountain music from the days of old. **Saturday, April 9, 2-4 p.m.**

**Essence.** Local singer and songwriter performs her vocal stylings, **Saturday, April 16, 3-5 p.m.**

**Live Jazz, Bebop, and Swing.** The Stephon Alexander Quartet with its sweet sounds of the sax perform on **Saturday, April 23, 7-9 p.m.**

**Knit One, Purl Two.** The knitting group will keep you in stitches Every Friday at 7 p.m.



**BUENA VISTA SCHOOL SILENT AUCTION.** Get great deals on local restaurants, works of art, clothing, food, professional services, sporting events, hotel/spa certificates and entertainment while enjoying an evening of drink, food, and dance. **Saturday, April 30, 6-10 p.m.** at Cell Space, 2050 Bryant Street. Tickets are \$20 and include dinner and a drink. Help support your local public school while you shop for bargains.



**ART WITHOUT BORDERS/PREMIO ARTE SIN FRONTERAS.** Art exhibition for emerging young artists, including those who are working in new and original ways in the visual arts. This juried art contest is for artists between the ages of 13-24 who would like to display their work in a professional space equipped for large multi-disciplinary exhibits and qualify for cash prizes to be awarded. The deadline for submitting work is Saturday, April 16, 4 p.m. The exhibit opening and awards ceremony will be held on **Saturday, April 23, 1-4 p.m.** at the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission Street. For more information call 415-643-2793 or email [video@missionculturalcenter.org](mailto:video@missionculturalcenter.org).



**SACRED HARP SINGING.** Come join in singing hymns and other songs from The Sacred Harp, the same powerful music heard in the film *Cold Mountain*. This event is a participatory *a cappella* singing experience which is open to all. No experience is necessary. and no harps required. **Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m.**, pot luck lunch at noon, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. For more information call 415-585-4773 or visit the Golden Gate Singing web site at <http://fasola.org/sf/goldengate>



**A CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN AND BOOKS.** This year's celebration of Dia de los Ninos, Dia de los Libros will take place at Dolores Park, Sunday April 24, 1-4 p.m. It is a day when families from all walks of life come together to enjoy a diverse blend of activities and to celebrate the importance of literacy. Nine Bay Area nonprofits and community organizations have raised funds to provide entertainment at the event and to give every child who attends a free book. Free.



By Mary Wasserman

**WHAT'S LEFT BEHIND.** A two person art exhibition presenting the Renaissance style figure drawings of Michael Markovitz, a respected Bay Area artist and teacher, and his great aunt, Shirley Lawrence, whose background experience includes many years of painting in Paris, New York and San Francisco. **Thursday, April 7-Friday, April 21** at SomArts Cultural Center, Main Gallery, 934 Brannan Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 12p.m-4 p.m. Admission is free. More information is available at 415-552-2131, ext.7 or [www.somarts.org](http://www.somarts.org)



**POTRERO PETS FOR POTRERO KIDS.** A fund raiser to benefit the Potrero Hill Recreation Center After-School Study Program. Dog owners who regularly walk their dogs at the recreation center are invited to bring their pets to this event. In exchange for a donation you will get a digital photograph of your pet, pet training tips, or a 2006 Potrero Pets and Potrero Kids calendar. **Sunday, April 8, 8 a.m.-noon.** Call 415-648-0475 or visit [jennwitherspoon@yahoo.com](mailto:jennwitherspoon@yahoo.com) for more information.



**BYZANTINE STYLE ICONS ART EXHIBIT.** As a result of several intensive workshops in traditional methods of making icons, many artists have produced an array of works to be displayed for approximately six weeks at Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro Street. A reception and open studio will be held at the church on **Sunday, April 3, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** For more information call 415-255-8100 or visit [office@saintgregorys.org](mailto:office@saintgregorys.org).



**ABU GHRAIB PRISON SCANDAL** is the subject of a free symposium, *Torture: When, If Ever, Is It Permissible*, Friday, April 8, 2-4:30 p.m., at USF's Kendrick Hall, 2199 Fulton Street, Room 100. The panel includes Brigadier General Janis Katpinski, the commander in charge of Abu Ghraib prison during the prisoner-abuse scandal.



**JEWISH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**, 1835 Ellis Street between Scott and Pierce Streets. Library membership and all events are free and open to the public. Closed on Friday, Saturday and Jewish Holidays. For more information and hours of operation call 415-567-3327 or visit [www.bjesf.org](http://www.bjesf.org).

**All-of-a-Kind Family Day.** Visit New York's Lower East Side of 100 years ago. Bring your grandparents, your family photos and other treasures to share during this recreation of Jewish immigrant family life at the turn of the 20th century. The 350th anniversary of the Jewish presence in North America coincides with the 100th birthday of the late Sydney Taylor, author of the *All-of-a-Kind Family* children's books which bring to life the vibrant community of Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. **Sunday, April 10, 1-3 p.m.**

**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.** All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Main Library (unless stated otherwise) 100 Larkin Street at Grove. For more information call 415-557-4277 or visit [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

**San Francisco Ballet: Pointe of View.** Dance scholar and educator Mary Wood and ballet coordinator, Evelyn Cisneros-Legate, host this lively program featuring Val Caniparoli's *Lamberena*. Several African dance consultants to Mr. Caniparoli will also participate in this lecture demonstration. **Wednesday, April 6, 6-7p.m.**

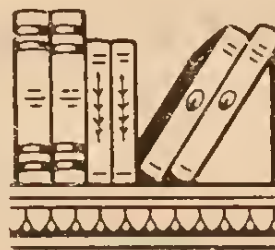
**Legal Advice and Referral Clinic.** For problems that might require an attorney, sign up between 10:30 a.m.-noon to receive a free private consultation before 2 p.m. **Saturday, April 9.**

**Half-n-Half in the "Coda Spirit Tour."** Sherry Hicks and Michael Velez, Children of Deaf Adults (Coda) star in a packed 60-minute performance of American Sign language (ASL) improvisation with fast moving messages of contemporary deaf culture. This show features story telling and a music revue. **Saturday, April 9, 4-5 p.m.**

**A Second Final Rest: The History of San Francisco's Lost Cemeteries.** This documentary tells the hidden history of how San Francisco managed to systematically relocate nearly all of its burial grounds in the 20th century to make room for its expanding city and its growing population. Filmmaker Trina Lopez will be present for a Q. and A. session after the film. **Saturday, April 16, 1 p.m.**

**Stories of the City: Sixth Street Photography Workshop.** Using photographic portraits and personal narratives, this exhibition reveals the community living in and around several single room occupancy (SRO) hotels in San Francisco. The materials provide an historical look at some of the city's most disenfranchised residents. **April 3-May 29.** Related Program: **Stories of the City: An Inside Look. Saturday, April 23, 3 p.m.**

**Northern California Book Awards.** This event recognizes the best 2004 published works by Northern California writers. A panel of local critics reads all the eligible books, discusses their merits and decides which ones will be awarded prizes. The awards will be presented on **Wednesday, April 13, beginning at 5 p.m.**



**ART WITH ELDERS EXHIBIT AT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL.** This traveling art exhibit will be on display at St. Luke's Hospital's Monteagle Medical Office Building Atrium, 1580 Valencia St. from April 18 through May 13, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Art With Elders is a non-profit organization that funds artists to conduct art workshops in long-term care facilities. For more information call 415-641-6490.

**CRISSY FIELD CENTER**, 603 Mason at Halleck in the Presidio. For more information call 415-561-7690 or visit [www.crisseyfield.org](http://www.crisseyfield.org).

**It's Not Too Early To Plan For Summer Camp.** Call the above number to obtain more information and a brochure describing the varied and fascinating summer day camp offerings at Crissy Field including: Junior Rangers, Raptor Camp, Presidio Trekkets, Gardening Camp, Animal Camp, Fabulous Food, Eco-Explorers and Planet Patrol. All camps are week-long day camps meeting Mon-Fri., 8:30 a.m-4 p.m.

**Stories of Immigration: A Tour of the Presidio and Living History Performance.** Celebrate the opening of the Presidio's *Immigrant Point Overlook* and honor the many people from around the world who shaped our history and land by coming to the U.S. in pursuit of a better life. The journey begins with an interpretative shuttle tour that departs from Crissy Field Center and highlights the Presidio as a gateway to the West. **Saturday, April 30, 1 or 3 p.m.** Free, but call 415-561-7752 to register.

**Urban Biking Workshop: Street Skills for the Urban Bicyclist.** Want to bike to work but feeling apprehensive about riding the city streets? Here's your chance to spare the air, get some exercise and never have to worry about finding a parking place again. Class is geared for riders new to urban cycling and for experienced riders alike. For adults and teens. **Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** Free, but must register by calling 415-561-7752



**THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFERS "THIRD THURSDAYS,"** 875 Howard Street between Fourth and Fifth streets in downtown San Francisco. Visitors can view museum and aquarium exhibits, listen to live music, and enjoy cocktails from 5-9 p.m. on the Third Thursday of every month. Admission is \$5. No-host bar. For more information call 415-321-8000 or visit [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org). Future dates are April 21, May 19, and June 16.



**HAVE A POEM ON ME.** Because April is Poetry Month, California Poets in the Schools (CPITS) celebrates with a program of students' readings, a free poetry lesson and writing exercise, and the sharing of what has been written. Students from the San Francisco Schools who participate in the CPITS program will read their work at A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Avenue, on Friday, April 8, noon. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 415-221-4201 or visit [www.cpits.org](http://www.cpits.org).



**NINTH ANNUAL GLEN PARK FESTIVAL.** A one day event for the benefit of neighborhood children's programs, including those at the Glen Park Branch Library. The festival will feature a wide variety of live music, over 40 booths of local arts and crafts vendors, and local schools information booths. There will be food, wine and beer vendors, and a raffle with prizes throughout the day. The event takes place on Diamond Street, between Chenery and Bosworth on **Sunday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** For more information call 415-835-2112 or visit [www.glenparkfestival.com](http://www.glenparkfestival.com).





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A painting by Robert Margolis in *Aliens: The Green Ones*, a new exhibit opening April 14 at Creativity Explored.

## Aliens: The Green Ones at Creativity Explored

The inimitable artists at Creativity Explored explore outer space in an exhibition opening at the gallery, 3245 16th Street, on Thursday, April 14 and continuing through May 26.

From Star Trek-inspired 60s sci-fi to the final frontiers of the imagination, studio artists venture into the outer limits and reveal that darkness is full of surprises in this latest show of their work *Aliens: The Green Ones*.

In paintings, drawings, and special "space" lights, artists such as Loren King, Andrew Li, Quintin Rodriguez, and Kelly Clark imagine dimensions where weird is normal. The exhibit is full of fanciful life forms, alien landscapes, and spaceships galore. Robert Margolis' series of planet drawings are spare and beautiful studies of color. John Patrick McKenzie contributes several miniature pieces of space furniture covered in his distinctive writing in homage to such heroes of TV outer space as Captain Kirk.

Creativity Explored is a visual art center where artists with developmental disabilities create, exhibit and sell art. The opening reception for *Aliens: The Green Ones* is Thursday, April 14, 7-9 p.m. The exhibit is free to the public and on view Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and Saturdays, 1-6 p.m.

The artists of Creativity Explored have also created one-of-a-kind portraits of San Francisco Notables that will be sold through a silent auction on Thursday, April 28. The auction party, to benefit the visual arts center, begins at 7 p.m. at the



Mayor Gavin Newsom by Kelly Clark is one of the celebrity portraits to be sold at auction to benefit Creativity Explored on April 28 at 111 Minna Gallery.

111 Minna Gallery, and will feature comedian Will Durst, and food and drink from several of the city's notable restaurants and wineries. An Afterparty, with bands Elephone and Every Move a Picture, begins at 9:30 p.m. \$40 for the whole evening, \$10 for the Afterparty only (must be 21 or older).

For more information about all these events, and for tickets to the benefit, call 415-863-2108 or visit [www.creativityexplored.org](http://www.creativityexplored.org).

## ART SHOW

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[www.theartexplosion.org](http://www.theartexplosion.org)

# OPEN STUDIOS

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# Performing Arts Roundup

By Sandhya Dirks

## Say Ahhh

Thick Description, founded in New York City in 1988, now calls Potrero Hill home. The company's name is an anthropological term, meant to remind us that the act of describing is always an act of interpreting. Thick Description sees theater as located at the intersection of description and interpretation, a textured, layered, thick description of the world we interpret and inhabit. And fortunately for us Hill residents, they inhabit the Hill.

This month, in partnership with Golden Thread Productions, Thick Description brings us the world premiere of Yussef El Guindi's new play, *Back of the Throat*. El Guindi, an Egyptian American playwright, won the 2004 Northwest Playwright Competition and is known for his adaptation of Chekhov's *A Marriage Proposal*. His new play is set in the days following a terrorist attack, when the main character, Khaled, is visited by government agents in a "friendly inquiry." The questioning soon dissolves into a full blown examination of Khaled's presumed ties to the attackers. An exploration of how we distort facts and evidence and of how cultural otherness fragments our perceptions, *Back of the Throat*, directed by Tony Kelly explores the space for error when one depends on thin description.

To see this timely and provocative look at this cultural chasm, hie yourself to Thick House, 1659 18th Street, sometime between April 16 through May 15.

Showtimes are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$15-25 and can be purchased by calling 415-401-8081, or online at [www.thickdescription.org](http://www.thickdescription.org).

## Marsh Madness

The Marsh is a happy environment for growing things. The shows there sprout, take root, and flourish beyond — and yet again beyond — their original closing dates. Brian Copeland's *Not a Genuine Black Man* is now continuing through April 30. This one-man show chronicles Copeland's childhood in San Leandro, which in 1971 was touted as one of the most racist suburbs in America. See this exploration on race, and peek into a little-known chapter of Bay Area history, of which we might not be so proud, on Thursdays and Fridays at 8:30 and Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Also at the Marsh through April 17, Bizarro Rush Limbaugh strolls on stage in Charlie Varon's *Rush Limbaugh in Night School*. The reprisal of his 1994 hit, detailing the demise of the big fat reactionary, didn't quite plan for Limbaugh's actual pain-pill popping. In Varon's version fiction is more entertaining than life — perhaps being the exception that proves the adage. So see what Rush's life could've been — imagine the loudmouth learning Spanish in Greenwich Village, falling in love with a feminist, playing Othello in Central Park. Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m.

Tickets for both shows are \$15-22 and reservations can be made by calling 415-826-5750 or visiting [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

## Gut Busters

*Della Pancha* is the title of writer/performer Mini Liccione's original one-woman show. Translated from the Italian, *della pancha* means "from the gut" — that place inside of each of us where hunger and desire, fear and fullness, mingle and make noise like last night's bean burrito.

Described as a cross between Lily Tomlin, Lucille Ball, and Olive Oyle, Liccione is a six-foot-tall performer whose talent ranges from songs to storytelling to tap dancing and body percussion. Her past projects have included four years touring with STOMP, and MTV's Grind.

*Della Pancha* features opening guest performers including tap choreographer Jennie Marshall, comedienne Kym Priess, and clown duo Natasha Kaluza and Jamie Coventry.

To get it in the gut see *Della Pancha* at Shotwell Studios, 3252A 19th Street. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays April 1 through 9 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$10-15 and can be purchased by calling 415-289-2000 or visiting [www.ftloose.org](http://www.ftloose.org).

## A Benefit - Brought to You by the Letter B

Philip Horvitz visits for a one-night performance to benefit the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. Mr. Horvitz will present a grab-bag of pieces, including Bob and Boris, an absurdist pornographic romp brought to you by the letter B. *Heart Never Rests* is the inner monologue of a gay man on the eve of his 30th birthday, and is paired with *The Children's Hour*, bringing back the same narrator 15 years later, on the eve of another milestone.

Horvitz is a writer, director, choreographer, and performer, with varied experience, training both as a dancer at the Alvin Ailey School and graduating from Berkeley with a BA in the humanities. He brings his mixed bag of experience and art to this one night benefit show, April 10 at 8 p.m., Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Street.

Tickets are \$10-15. For more information call 415-554-0402 or visit [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org).

## My Way or the Hemingway

"He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone 84 days now without taking a fish."

The perfect sentence — simple, self-contained, elegant. Ernest Hemingway was always paring down language in search of that perfect sentence. Often barbaric in its shortness, a combination of allegorical simplicity married to the upfront gruffness of the beat reporter. He was concocting modern day fables for the American male, with a capital M. Move over Aesop, Hemingway is here.

Now the Theatre of Yugen takes Hemingway off the printed page and onto the stage in an adaptation of *The Old Man and The Sea*. Literary adaptations are always fraught with difficulties. Noh acting is a form known for its terseness, its intensity and restraint, a style of performance that echoes Hemingway's style of writing and is perhaps uniquely suited for this adaptation. Also employed in transferring the story are those staples of avant-garde theater — puppets, live music, and light art.

To see if the perfect sentence can take flight from the page, and re-acquaint yourself with the mother of all fish-tales, see *The Old Man and The Sea*, April 28 through May 21, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. at NOH Space, 2840 Mariposa Street.

Tickets are \$15-20 and can be purchased by calling 415-621-7978.



## Dollyawood on TV

Dalia Vidor, producer and clown, created the character Dollya Hofman-Kaufman-Stein-Steinberg while working in the offices of a small theatre company, the name of which Vidor cutely withholds, merely pointing out that the character was born out of that theatre's clientele.

Given the litany of her last names, and Dollya H.K.S.S.-berg's first stage appearance as the emcee in *Borscht Belt by the Bay* at A Traveling Jewish Theatre, one could make some assumptions, but I will leave that to you, dear reader. The character, after a stint in the vaudeville cabaret show *Unnatural Acts*, and appearances at the San Francisco Fringe Festival, now takes to the airwaves with her very own late late night talk TV show. Move over Craig Kilborn, oh, wait... he already moved over. So if you find yourself up around midnight with nothing to do on the third Thursday of the month, scroll the remote over to Channel 29, and see *Hello Dollya!* She's here to prove that not every TV adaptation takes away from the theatrical original. That is, unless the original is a BBC show, in which case the American-made version is sure to fail, every time.



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## Sports Writing Scholarship Contest

Entries are still open for the 2005 Art Rosenbaum Sports Writing Scholarship contest which is administered by the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame (BASHOF). Three scholarship awards will be given to Bay Area high school juniors or seniors who have written outstanding sports-related articles covering high school sports.

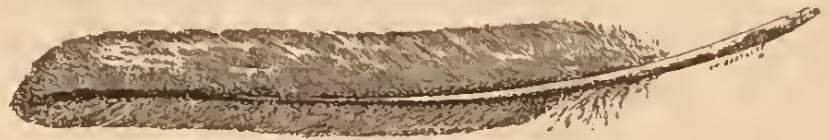
The first place award is \$2,500, second is \$1,500, and the third award is \$1,000. The deadline to submit the sports articles is April 15, 2005.

The annual scholarship awards were established in 1992 by Lou Spadia, president of the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame, to honor editor/columnist Art Rosenbaum's 60 years of sports writing for the San Francisco Chronicle, where he began his career

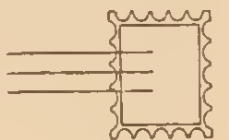
covering high school sports.

Entries are open to Bay Area high school junior and senior student writers of sports-oriented articles printed in their school publication from the period of April 15, 2004 to April 15, 2005. Bay Area high schools may submit two entries each for the scholarship contest (limit one article per student). A panel of professional journalists will judge the entries. The awards will be presented at the end of the spring semester.

Entries should be sent to Art Rosenbaum Sports Writing Scholarship, BASHOF, 235 Montgomery Street, 12th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104. Call 415 353-8827 for information or go online at [www.bashof.org](http://www.bashof.org)



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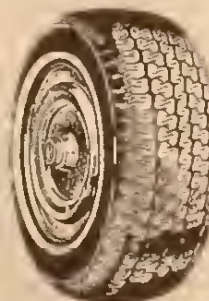
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# Blood Drive at St. Gregory's Church

The Blood Center of the Pacific has teamed up with local Potrero Hill church, Saint Gregory of Nyssa, to make it easier than ever for Hill residents to donate blood on a regular basis. They've scheduled quarterly blood drives at the church.

This quarter the blood drive is April 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the church on the corner of De Haro and Mariposa. For more information go to [www.saintgregorys.org/giveblood](http://www.saintgregorys.org/giveblood) or call the church at 415-255-8100. Drop-ins are welcome, but appointments are appreciated.

"I've always believed in donating blood but it's never been as convenient as it is now," said Suzanne Palmer of Connecticut Street. "I like having the blood center come to my own neighborhood - it makes it possible for me to donate more often."

Wisconsin Street resident and church member Katherine Krebs pioneered the idea in the fall and brought the Blood Center staff and Saint Gregory's together. "We've got the perfect space for blood drives, and we really hope everyone who lives on the Hill will donate every quarter." (People can donate blood every 56 days, so donating once a quarter is completely safe.)

"Donating blood is literally giving the gift of life to another woman, man or child," explained Donald Schell, the Rector of Saint Gregory's and a strong supporter of a regular blood drive at the church. "We want everyone who is eligible to donate blood to come and donate every time. You can walk down the street to a café for your morning latte and bagel, come by and donate blood, and walk home. The pint of blood you donate could easily be divided and used by three different people. It's the easiest way in the world to save lives."

The Blood Center has a list of criteria for being eligible to donate, and things as simple as having traveled to certain countries may make a person ineligible. This makes it especially important for those who *are* eligible to donate to do so on a regular basis. People cannot catch any diseases from donating blood, and their blood is screened for a long list of diseases before it is released for use to hospitals. The detailed list of eligibility criteria is available at [www.saintgregorys.org/giveblood/eligibility.pdf](http://www.saintgregorys.org/giveblood/eligibility.pdf)

—Diane Bassett



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## Bush's Privatization Plan

(Continued from Page 5)

benefit could be cut by more than 40 percent. Even considering a cut of that magnitude is unconscionable.

The president would also impose a "privatization tax" that would on average effectively deduct 70 cents from a person's Social Security check for every dollar they had in their private account.

Third and finally, any change to Social Security must be fair. The president has suggested a two-tiered system that treats current retirees differently from younger workers.

President Bush likes to say that young people have the most to gain under his plan, but the truth is that young people have the most to lose. Social Security will be there for today's young people, unless the president gets his way. According to the Center on Economic and Policy Research, under the leading privatization proposal, a young person entering the workforce today can expect to lose more than \$150,000 over the course of a 20-

year retirement.

Incredibly, there was even a Republican suggestion to provide women and minority workers with a different level of benefits. Women are the majority of Social Security beneficiaries, and are less likely than men to have pensions or retirement savings to supplement their Social Security checks. Without Social Security, 53 percent of all senior women would be in poverty. And Social Security is extremely important for the millions of minority families who heavily rely on its survivor and disability benefits.

To be sustainable, any solution must be bipartisan. In 1983, Democrats joined with President Ronald Reagan to enact reforms that put Social Security on solid footing for nearly the next 70 years. This president, however, after a perfunctory nod to bipartisanship, has done little to reach out to Democrats while holding sev-

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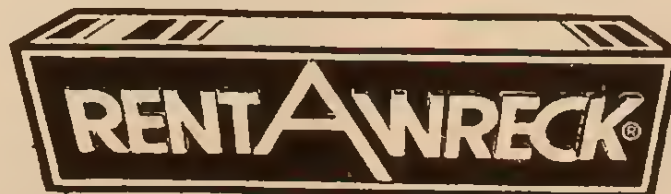
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## After 9/11: Images of Ground Zero at Veteran's Building

The United States Department of State's U.S. Diplomacy Center, in collaboration with The Museum of the City of New York, has mounted a traveling exhibition titled "After 9/11: Messages from the World and Images of Ground Zero," now on display through April 30 at the Veterans War Memorial Building, sponsored by the American Legion War Memorial Commission.

The exhibition features condolence messages representing 110 countries received at United States embassies and consulates throughout the world, and photographs of the destruction and recovery of Ground Zero taken by Joel Meyerowitz,

the only photographer allowed free artistic access to the site.

The "After 9/11" exhibit tells the story of attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania in 2001, and how the attacks created a vast human response that resounded across the globe. It commemorates the lives lost, and presents how the people of the world offered hope and encouragement. The exhibition is about healing and resiliency after a great national trauma.

The exhibit, in The Trophy Room, War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, between McAllister and Grove streets, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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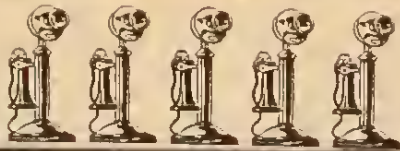
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*Recalibrating the Synchronicity of the City, found redwood, maple, bicycle tires, and motorcycle sprocket, by Michael Farruggia. Photo courtesy SF Recycling & Disposal*

**Art Show at the Dump**

A reception for artists Mike Farruggia and Patrick Haywood takes place Friday, April 22, at the dump. The show on display is the culmination of a three-month residency where they made art from found objects taken from the S.F. Recycling & Disposal (a subsidiary of Norcal Waste Systems, Inc.).

Farruggia, both excited and overwhelmed with the amount of materials available to him during his residency said, "Working, playing, thinking and being at the dump has been overwhelming. The sadness of the waste created by our society fused with this unbelievable opportunity to be creative in a truly awesome studio has left me reeling."

And, he went on: "My heart is beating faster. My brain is being fertilized. Amidst the intensity, I've found comfort in what I know: woodworking and furniture. Using the craft of my trade, I've created some beautiful objects from what was once, one man's trash. Now that I have caught my breath, I plan on taking some risks and exploring the profound influence this residence is having on me."

Photographer Haywood's work centers on personal ritual and the intersection of private and public life. During his residency, he focused on the ideas of memory,

fragility and what is precious while questioning the roles we play in our society. "My work is a diaristic account of the residue of my participation in a system of mass production. I simultaneously assume the role of consumer, producer, individual and number. Through the examination of what is consumed, I hope to spur people to question the roles they play in a system of mass production," he said.

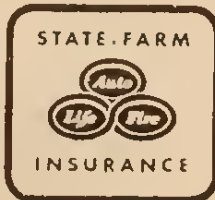
Since 1990 over 50 artists have participated in the unique art and education program initiated by San Francisco's waste haulers to inspire people to conserve natural resources.

By providing Bay Area artists with the opportunity to work at the dump, Norcal Waste Systems has developed an innovative program for the benefit of both the environment and the arts. The program's outreach activities target the general public, school children, and the local art community.

The exhibition runs for two days only, Friday, April 22, 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, April 23, 1-5 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public in the company's art studio at 503 Tunnel Avenue. For more information call Deborah Munk, 415-330-1415 or visit [www.norcalwaste.com](http://www.norcalwaste.com).

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# Potrero Pot Club Plan Sparks Controversy

(Continued from Page 1)

note and a \$25 fee. An estimated 7,000 cards have been issued. Under current rules, clubs do not need to acquire a special license or planning permit. There is no required neighborhood notification, no restrictions on client age, no limits on prices clubs can charge, and no rules covering on-site consumption. It takes little more than a business license, and the approval of the building's landlord to get a cannabis club going.

The most comprehensive ordinance regulating dispensaries was passed in Oakland last year. It spells out a long list of regulations, limits the total number of clubs to four, and requires licensing fees ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The ordinance was instigated by complaints about certain facilities along Telegraph Avenue, where a KTVU-TV expose photographed clients re-distributing their purchases.

Stricter regulations in the East Bay have resulted in new facilities springing up like weeds in San Francisco. As a result, the city now has at least 37 medical marijuana outlets — or an estimated 30 percent of all such facilities in the entire state.

"I fully support the need for medical marijuana, but I oppose that usage for this high-profile site in the heart of our neighborhood," said Susan Eslick, president of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association. "We're trying to attract vibrant mixed uses and neighborhood-serving retail. We want to create an environment where everyone feels welcome, including parents and kids who hang out at the bus stop nearby. I believe these facilities should be regulated just like any other business, and neighborhoods should have a say in the planning process."

Another neighbor, who lives near the proposed outlier and wished to remain anonymous, seemed unfazed when asked about the controversy while dining at a local breakfast joint. "Medical marijuana is part of a bigger social issue," he said. "It's really a fight against the status quo and corporate America. I'll take a marijuana outlet over a McDonald's in my neighborhood every time. Sure, some people are probably just in it for the money, but at least those who need it have a safe place to get their pot."

Given SFPD's limited resources, other more serious crime issues, and the highly charged political implications, the city police force monitors the clubs but generally has a hands-off policy.

Responding via e-mail to neighborhood concerns about the proposed use before the moratorium was passed, Bayview Station Captain Rick Bruce said his department is not typically "in the loop" when medical marijuana outlets are being licensed.

"Although we are certainly sensitive to the needs of people with legitimate medical conditions who require marijuana as a part of their treatment, we are also extremely concerned about the routine abuses which take place at these outlets," he wrote. "On numerous occasions in the past year, Bayview officers have come across drug dealers with medical marijuana cards which they pull out when being arrested. We will work closely with the community to ensure that the area around any new facility doesn't begin to look like a scene from a Cheech and Chong movie."

*John Borg lives and works in Dogpatch, and he occasionally gets the munchies. He supported Prop 215, and saw medical cannabis help a close friend dying of cancer last year.*

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Director Amanda Micheli's documentary *Double Dare* opens at the Roxie on April 15.

Stuntwomen Star in *Double Dare*

*Double Dare* is a double-barreled, action-packed documentary about two successful Hollywood stuntwomen at opposite ends of their careers. The movie opens at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Street, on April 15.

Jeannie Epper, who refuses to retire at 62, doubled for Wonder Woman in the 70s, and Zoe Bell, who at 18 years of age, landed the coveted job doubling Xena: Warrior Princess in the 90s. Despite their age and cultural differences, Epper and Bell share distinct qualities. Both speak of the thrill over the sense of responsibility they felt when they landed their first gigs. Both say they'd rather perform stunts than anything else. And both know they have to overcome the gender politics of the film industry.

Epper is something of a legend among stuntwomen, having been born into a family of stunt people. Filmmaker Steven Spielberg calls the Eppers "the flying Wallenders" of the Hollywood stunt world.

Even though Epper refers to herself as "one of the guys," it is difficult, almost impossible, for her to land the job she wants as a stunt coordinator. With star-studded interviews and rollicking live-action stunt sequences, *Double Dare* is a candid look at two strong, dedicated women who pursue tough careers in male-dominated Tinseltown.

Director Amanda Micheli, a resident of Potrero Hill, grew up horse crazy in New England, and as a young girl dreamed of being a cowgirl. For her first film *Just For The Ride* (1996), she headed West to find her childhood heroines. Micheli enrolled in Jan Youren's rodeo school where women learn to use their feet and spurs and to roll as they fall. She has served as cinematographer for the films *My Flesh and Blood*, *The Flute Player*, and *Witches in Exile*. *Double Dare* is her most recent directorial effort.

— Chris Wiggum

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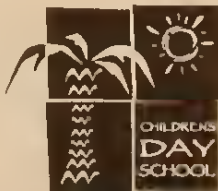
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